

The Museum District & Neubau

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Kunsthistorisches Museum (p109) Throwing yourself head first into the artistic vortex of the Museum of Art History, a whirl of Habsburg treasures from Egyptian tombs to rare breed Raphael, Dürer and Caravaggio masterworks.

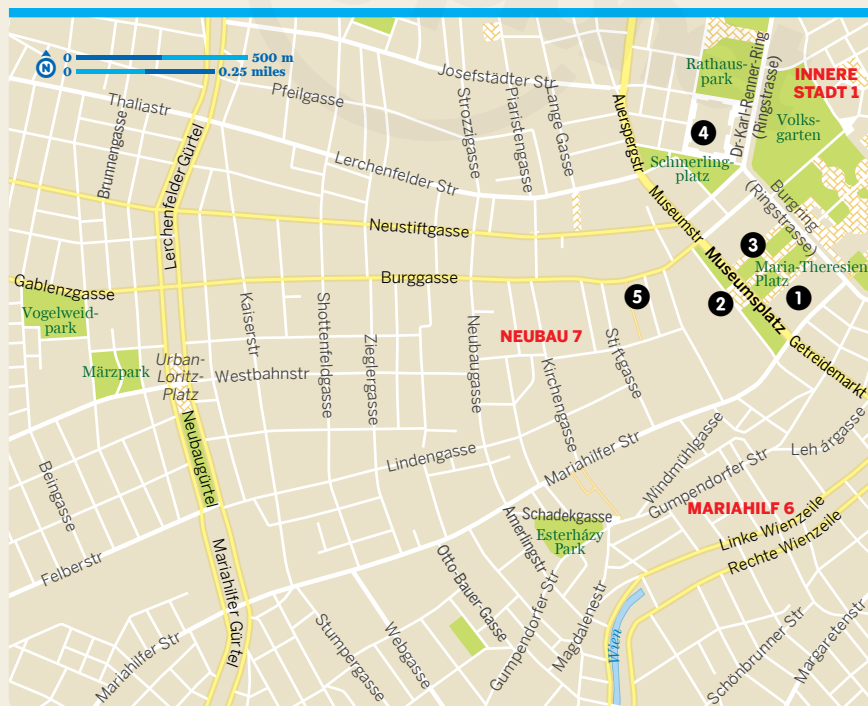
2 MuseumsQuartier (p115) Checking Vienna's

cultural pulse during an art-packed day at this vast ensemble of museums, cafes, restaurants and bars inside the Hofburg's former imperial stables.

3 Naturhistorisches Museum (p118) Making a date with the dinosaurs and prehistoric divas at the Museum of Natural History.

4 Rathaus (p120) Reveling in the neo-Gothic riches of the City Hall on a free guided tour.

5 Neubau's Design Scene (p124) Taking a design-inspired walk through the cobbled backstreets of the Biedermeier Spittelberg neighbourhood.



For more detail of this area see Map p252 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Time your visit to catch one of the neighbourhood sights' free guided tours. Gallery tours that won't cost you a cent include those at the Leopold Museum at 3pm on Sunday, the Kunst-halle Wien at 3pm and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, and the MUMOK (check schedules online). Best of all are the gratis guided tours of the neo-Gothic Rathaus at 1pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tian Bistro (p121)
- ➔ Vestibül (p122)
- ➔ Figar (p120)
- ➔ Pure Living Bakery (p120)

For reviews, see p120. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Brickmakers Pub & Kitchen (p122)
- ➔ Café Leopold (p123)
- ➔ Le Troquet (p123)

For reviews, see p122. ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Die Werkbank (p124)
- ➔ Dirndlherz (p126)
- ➔ Das Möbel (p124)
- ➔ S/GHT (p125)
- ➔ Mühlbauer (p126)

For reviews, see p126. ➔

Explore The Museum District & Neubau

The Museum District and Neubau walk a fine line between Habsburg history and modernity. The baroque imperial stables have cantered into the 21st century with their transformation into the MuseumsQuartier (p115), a colossal complex of on-the-pulse bars, cafes, boutiques and museums, including the Leopold (p115), the proud holder of the world's largest Schiele collection. Hang out in the courtyards here in summer and the creativity in the air is palpable.

Just around the corner on Maria-Theresien-Platz is the Kunsthistorisches Museum (p109), an epic and exhilarating journey through art, where Rubens originals star alongside Giza treasures. Its architectural twin is the neoclassical Naturhistorisches Museum (p118) opposite.

When you've had your fill of art and culture, keep tabs on Vienna's evolving fashion and design scene with a mosey around Neubau's backstreet studios and boutiques. After dark, the live-wire clubs and bars tucked under the Gürtel arches, slightly west, are where the young Viennese go to party.

Local Life

➔ **Schanigärten Life** Join the locals toasting summer at a flurry of *Schanigärten* (pavement cafes and courtyard gardens), including Amerlingbeisl (p122) in Spittelberg, and Kantine (p121) and Café Leopold (p123) in the MuseumsQuartier.

➔ **Design Life** Mill around Kirchengasse, Lindengasse, Neubaugasse and Zollergasse, where artists and creatives put a fresh spin on Viennese fashion and design.

➔ **Pop-up Life** Join locals digging into dishes by guest chefs cooking at Brickmakers Pub & Kitchen (p122).

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Useful U-Bahn stops include Museumsquartier and Volkstheater on the U2 line. The U3 Neubaugasse and Zieglergasse stops, and the U6 stops Burggasse Stadthalle and Thaliastrasse are best for accessing Neubau.

➔ **Tram** Trams D, 1, 2 and 71 travel around the Ringstrasse, stopping at Rathaus, Dr-Karl-Renner-Ring and Parlament en route. The No 49 line trundles from Dr-Karl-Renner-Ring through Neubau, with handy stops including Stiftgasse/Siebensterngasse and Neubaugasse/Westbahnstrasse.